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The Evening Herald

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DECISIVE BATTLE RAGES EAST OF PARIS

Germany Determines to Deal Crushing Defeat to Allies Before Attempting Investment of French Capital

Russia Ready to Deliver Final Blow to Austrian Armies in Galicia

RESULT OF WAR MAY REST ON BATTLE

London Military Critics Convinced Engagement Now Under Way Near French Capital of Decisive Nature.

GERMANS HAVE THEIR BACKS TOWARD PARIS

Invaders Abandon Attack on Left and Concentrate on French Center and Right. News Expected Soon.

Paris, Sept. 7 (3:30 p. m.).—A general action is today proceeding to the east of Paris from Nanteuil-le-Haudouin to Verdun, according to an official communication given out this afternoon.

The text of the official notice is as follows:

"A general action has started on the line through Nanteuil-le-Haudouin, Meaux, Soissons and Vitry-le-François and extending to Verdun.

"Thanks to the vigorous action of our troops, strongly supported by the British, the Germans started retreating.

"The Germans had advanced Saturday and Sunday into the regions between Compiègne and La Ferté Gaucher.

"In the Austro-Russian theater of operations twelve divisions of the Austrian army in the vicinity of Lemberg, Galicia, have been completely destroyed."

Nanteuil-le-Haudouin is 25 miles northeast of the city of Paris and ten miles southeast of Soissons. The distance from Nanteuil-le-Haudouin to Verdun is roughly 130 miles.

Meaux is 22 miles east of Paris and Soissons is about 35 miles east of the capital. Soissons is also 25 miles southwest of Compiègne. Vitry-le-François is on the right bank of the river Marne and 25 miles southwest of Verdun. Compiègne is in the department of Seine and Marne, and it is 13 miles southeast of Meaux and 10 miles east of Paris.

Before the official announcement was made newspaper dispatches from both Berlin and London indicated that engagements were being fought in the district described by the French war office.

The Berlin correspondent whose dispatch was dated last Friday said that a great battle was being waged on the French center from Bethel to Verdun.

A message from London early today expressed the common belief in England that a decisive battle was being fought at Verdun.

An attack on Nancy was reported yesterday and it was said that Emperor William was with the attacking army.

GERMANS FIGHTING WITH THEIR BACKS TO PARIS

Paris, Sept. 7 (12:30 p. m.).—In the fighting which is going on today to the east and southeast of Paris, the German forces have their backs toward the capital. French troops are harassing their march. From time to time the Germans turn and engage the French at their backs. French shells fall continually in the German rear.

Observers consider that it is obvious that the Germans could not attack Paris while the French armies

were in intact, and are continuing their wide turning movement under perilous circumstances.

The Red Cross surgeons and ambulance corps in Paris had received instructions that when they heard firing to go in the direction of the sound. Drs. E. L. Gros and A. J. Magnin of the American ambulance corps were first on the field yesterday with ten automobiles and twenty stretcher bearers. They left the city in the evening and following the sound of the cannonading reached the French lines and passed beyond them until they were within the zone between the armies. They picked up some wounded Arabs who had been pressing in pursuit of the Germans. Following a trail afforded by the smoke from burning farm houses, the physicians encountered a French patrol who said that between 250 and 300 wounded Germans were in a ruined church close to the German line and attended by a single German surgeon and two nurses.

BELIEF GENERAL THAT GREAT DECISIVE BATTLE IS ON

London, Sept. 7 (2:47 p. m.).—The belief is growing that a great, decisive battle is being fought at Verdun, the strong fortress of France on the Meuse near the French frontier.

If the fourth German army, marching southward, cuts off the retreat of the French eastern armies which recently have been holding the Germans in check between Toul, a fortified town 140 miles west of Nancy, and Epinal, also strongly fortified, and near the Alsace frontier, it might repeat the coup which in 1870 drove General Charles Denis Sauger Bourbaki and his army of 150,000 men into Switzerland.

Hopeful critics are speculating on the possibility that the German swing around to the south may mean an effort on the part of the invaders to make sure of their retreat through the Meuse district, but more likely it is a scheme to strike such a paralyzing blow to the French army as to render the investment of Paris a safe operation.

The southerly movement of the Germans may effect a junction of the crown prince's army and the army of Bavaria, which has been held on the defensive in Lorraine. Thus the Germans would advance from the east and north in a vast enveloping movement, destined to crush the allied right wing by sheer weight of numbers, just as their left was pushed back during the last fortnight.

These preliminary movements, if showing nothing else, at least prove that the Germans realize that the siege of Paris, even its occupation, is quite worthless from a strategic standpoint while the allies are free in the field.

Corroboration of the above mentioned theory is contained in a dispatch from Berlin which describes a battle in a difficult country between Verdun and Bethel as the deciding conflict as far as France is concerned. This dispatch states that the opposing forces are almost equal, but that the French have the advantage, fighting from a defensive position of their own choosing.

Another significant factor is the general understanding that Emperor William is inspecting the field of operations in this neighborhood. Reports disagree as to his exact whereabouts, but all agree that he is in the vicinity of the Franco-German border. The conflict in this region must have decisive results. The capture of the great French fortresses would be a terrible blow to France, while the repulse of the German army would give the French a chance to assume the offensive, a course needed on account of its moral effect in the western theater of the war.

Mines in the North sea are becoming such a menace that it may be closed to navigation during the night time. The admiralty notices gives the right to put out the coast lights at any time, which would make it difficult for German mine layers to continue their work.

HEAVY GUNS BROUGHT UP FOR DEFENSE OF PARIS

London, Sept. 7 (5:20 p. m.).—The correspondent of the Daily News in Paris, in a dispatch under Saturday's date, says he understands heavy guns from Calais, Boulogne and Cherbourg have been brought up to reinforce the defenses of Paris.

Twenty-five thousand marine fusiliers, he states, marched through the city early yesterday morning.

GERMANS LOST 5,000 IN VERDUN ENGAGEMENT

London, Sept. 7 (12:14 p. m.).—Telegraphing from Ostend, a corre-

(Continued on Page Two.)

Summary of Today's War News

A news despatch from Berlin says that a battle is being fought on the French center from Bethel to Verdun, with the opposing forces on almost even terms. Reports from other sources, while failing to reveal the purpose of the German strategy in removing a great force to the southeast of Paris, indicate a determination to deal the allies a crushing blow before the complete investment of the French capital is attempted. German pressure on the left wing of the allies has been withdrawn and apparently the main strength of the invaders has been thrown against the enemy's center and right.

It is officially announced in Paris that a general engagement is being fought east of that city and that the Germans have begun to retire at that point.

Official reports from Petrograd state that the Russian troops are gradually closing in on the strong fortress of Przemyśl, fifty miles west of Lemberg and that this last remaining stronghold of the Austrians in Galicia will soon surrender or be taken by assault.

It is stated officially in Antwerp that the Belgians have repulsed a German attack against that city.

According to a news despatch from Rome, members of the Italian socialist reform party have formally declared for Italian neutrality.

Two thousand Americans, many of them almost destitute were in line when the officers of the American relief committee in London were opened today. The committee is hard put to it to afford prompt relief.

A MILLION MEN IN GREAT BATTLE EAST OF PARIS

Paris, Sept. 7 (1:10 p. m.).—It is estimated unofficially that nearly one million troops are engaged in the fighting which is proceeding on the east of Paris today.

Paris, Sept. 7 (4:20 p. m.).—From official communications given out in Paris today it is learned that the engagements which began Saturday and Sunday to the east and northeast of the French capital developed today into one of the most important battles of the campaign.

The armies of the allies are opposing the German advance over a front extending for about 120 miles from Nanteuil-le-Haudouin, 25 miles northeast of Paris, to the great fortress of Verdun, in the department of Meuse, and 20 miles west of the German frontier.

The number of men engaged is not generally known. The French troops were strongly supported by the British soldiers, who passed through Paris several days ago.

The position chosen by the allied forces to give battle to the advancing invaders is declared to be most favorable, having near its center the strongly entrenched camp at Châlons-sur-Marne.

The allies conducted their operations so successfully that a portion of the German forces were forced to retire. The Germans had reached the region around Compiègne and La Ferté Gaucher, respectively, thirty or forty miles to the east of Paris, when the detachments covering the flanks of the main German army encountered advanced detachments of the allies who drove them back.

The wounded began coming into Paris this afternoon.

The nearness of this fighting to Paris was responsible for the reports current this afternoon that the sound of firing could be heard from the city itself. The day was clear and a strong wind from the east would tend to support the contention of those who declare they heard the sound of artillery.

The inhabitants of Paris gathered in great crowds near the gates of the city to watch the passing of military dispatch bearers, who from time to time came dashing in from the east in swift automobiles.

In some quarters it is estimated that nearly one million troops are engaged in this fighting. Nearly all the railways in every direction around the city were reserved today for the use of the military authorities, while large numbers of private automobiles and taxicabs have been employed in conveying provisions to the scene of operations.

Paris, Sept. 7 (5:20 p. m.).—Lieutenant Colonel Rohmer, military critic of La Liberté, said today that the German armies had placed themselves in a position, to the east and northeast of Paris, which might become hopeless in case they suffered a check.

Paris, Sept. 7 (4:35 p. m.).—Judging from reports made public in Paris, German troops covering the flanks of the main German army encountered advance detachments of the allies in the fighting east of the capital today at a point near La Ferté Gaucher, and were obliged to retire.

THE WAR AT SEA

THREE HUNDRED VICTIMS OF NORTH SEA MINE SNAKE

Grimby, England (Via London, Sept. 7, 2:30 a. m.).—Nearly 300 persons rescued from the Wilson liner Runo by trawlers when the steamship sank in the North sea, a victim of a contact mine at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, were landed at Grimby and Hull on Sunday. The prompt work of four trawlers, the Silanton, Strethorn, Cameo and Prince Victor, saved the lives of all those on board.

Wilson line officials say that all the crew and all but 27 of the passengers are safe in this port. The Silanton picked up 128 survivors—practically all she could hold. The Cameo saved nearly a hundred and the other two trawlers 70.

The Runo was bound from Hull on the long trip across the North sea to Archangel and her passengers were mostly Russians from America who were returning to Russia with their women and children. The boat hit the mine in mid-afternoon Saturday during fine weather. The explosion was terrific and a third portion of the ship was shattered, while several passengers were injured and one was killed.

The Runo, when she struck the mine immediately tilted at an angle which made it difficult to launch the lifeboats. Only two were launched, survivors said, and these, after reaching the water, were both overturned by the frightened people trying to get into them.

The Runo after getting by the head somewhat remained in that position for nearly two hours, her bulkheads suddenly gave way, raising her stern high in the air for a moment, after which she slipped quietly into the depths.

Many of the survivors, injured by flying debris, were taken in ambulances on arrival here. It is believed all will recover.

BRITISH CRUISER WARRIOR STRANDED IN BOSPHORUS

Washington, Sept. 7.—A Berlin wireless to the German embassy says: "British cruiser Warrior stranded probably as result of fight with Russian Goeben, while escaping from the Bosphorus."

The dispatch contains nothing to amplify or explain.

There was nothing to indicate that cruiser was escaping from the Bosphorus or what happened to the Goeben. The indefinite terms of the dispatch aroused added interest because of the fact that the Goeben with the Breslau, another German ship, after being chased by hostile ships at the beginning of the war, took refuge in the Dardanelles and were later reported taken over by the Turkish navy, although it was understood a German crew remained aboard.

The latter feature opened the possibility of a conflict between British and Turkish ships. In view of the threatened entrance of Turkey into the European conflict by a declaration of war on Russia, this possibility was regarded with added importance.

BRITISH FREIGHTER CETRANA STRIPPED OF WIRELESS

San Francisco, Sept. 7.—The British freighter Cetrana, under charter to the German government was stripped of her wireless by the German cruiser Lepid on August 2 off Magdalena bay, Lower California, and her cook, a German, and one other German reservist were taken aboard the Lepid.

This was the word brought by Captain Minister of the British naval reserve, commanding the Cetrana, which arrived here today. The Cetrana left here July 24 laden with 900 tons of coal consigned to the Leipzig. The two vessels met in Magdalena bay and the Lepid was chased on August 4, the day war was declared.

Not until some time later, through Rear Admiral Howard at Mazatlan, commanding the American Pacific fleet did the Cetrana learn that war had been declared. Coming north, the vessel hugged the three mile limit.

600 GERMANS CAUGHT ON DUTCH STEAMER TAMBOURA

Brest (Via Paris, Sept. 7, 1:24 p. m.).—Six hundred Germans have been captured on board the Dutch steamer Tamboura. Among them are 23 officers and doctors who are in prison at Chateau Brest. The Tamboura sailed July 20 from Batavia for Rotterdam.

FINAL BLOW TO AUSTRIAN MILITARY POWER

Russian Armies Surround Last Great Fortress, Fifty Miles West of Lemberg and Prepare to Take it by Assault.

SUCCESS AT PRZEMYSL OPENS ROAD TO BERLIN

Will Wipe Out Austria as a Fighting Force and Permit Junction of Great Russian Invading Forces.

Petrograd, Sept. 7.—The following official announcement was given out today:

"The Austrian army corps between the river Vistula and the river Bug are retreating with enormous losses.

"The resistance of the enemy has been broken.

"There are evidences of the possibility of a famine in Austria."

Paris, Sept. 7 (5:06 p. m.).—In a dispatch from Petrograd, a correspondent of the Havas agency says that the Russians took 70,000 Austrian prisoners and 300 cannon of various sizes around Lemberg alone. They also captured three regimental flags, 41 cannon, two aeroplanes, fifteen officers and 1200 men in other engagements in Galicia.

London, Sept. 7 (10:55 a. m.).—Best official reports from Russia state the Russian troops are gradually surrounding Przemyśl, which will soon either surrender or be taken by assault.

Przemyśl is a strong fortress fifty miles west of Lemberg and its fall would mean the loss by the Austrians of the last stronghold in Galicia. It would clear the way to an advance of the Russian, scattered towards the junction of their forces on the East Prussia frontier.

PREDICTS FINAL OVERTHROW OF WHOLE AUSTRIAN ARMY

London, Sept. 7 (7:00 a. m.).—The correspondent of the Times at Petrograd, under date of Sunday, referring to a battle just begun which, it is successful as the Russian operations against Lemberg will overthrow the Austrian forces and practically open the road to Berlin, says:

"Tactically, information as to the progress of the battle enables me to state that the outlook is no whit less promising, but that several days may elapse before the final overthrow of the Austrian army.

"The enemy disposes at least thirty divisions, besides several German corps, and will fight with the courage of despair.

"On the East Prussian front there is news of the appearance of part, if not the whole, of the Third Bavarian army corps. The troops were installed at Allenstein, which is being reconnoitered by Russian cavalry."

SECOND AUSTRIAN ARMY IN SERIOUS TROUBLE

Paris, Sept. 7 (3:55 a. m.).—According to advices received here, a second Austrian army operating in front of Krassnodar, in the Lubin region, have suffered great losses and is now on the defensive. Some of the Austrians have been forced to retreat.

RUSSIAN CAVALRY TAKES THE CARPATHIAN HEIGHTS

Paris, Sept. 7 (2:30 p. m.).—The Havas correspondent at Petrograd transmits the following official announcement:

"The Russians adopted offensive tactics September 4 along the entire Austrian line of battle. The enemy's center, located in the region of Krassnodar, suffered most from the Russian attack. The 45th Austrian infantry was completely surrounded, and the commander, 14 officers and

PRESIDENT DEMANDS END TO STRIKE

Letters Addressed to Mine Owners and Heads of Unions in Colorado Notify Them to Stop Fight.

TROOPS TO REMAIN ALL WINTER IF NECESSARY

Plain that Government is Determined to Take Vigorous Steps to Terminate Civil War.

Washington, Sept. 7.—President Wilson has addressed letters to the miners and operators concerned in the Colorado coal strike, virtually demanding that the long strike be ended.

He addressed his letters to the heads of the mining companies and to officers of the United Mine Workers of America.

The mediators sent to Colorado months ago have heard proposals and counter proposals but reached no solution.

Because federal troops are on duty in the strike district the president feels that the government has a peculiar interest.

Troops to Stay on Job.

Washington, Sept. 7.—War department officials today announced that preparations were being made to keep the federal troops in the Colorado coal fields throughout the winter. This was taken to indicate that no prospects of a settlement of the strike have come out of the negotiations which have extended over several months.

3,600 men were taken prisoners.

"The German division which came to the aid of the Austrians was attacked on the left bank of the Vistula.

"Russian troops have occupied the region around Ryl, and Russian cavalry is in possession of the Carpathian heights.

"In eastern Prussia only light skirmishes have been reported.

RUSHIY ENGAGED IN FORTIFICATION OF VIENNA

Paris, Sept. 7 (12:30 p. m.).—After the news of the fall of Lemberg became known in Vienna, the correspondent of the Havas agency says more than 20,000 men were set at work with feverish haste on the fortifications of Vienna and many thousands of others began fortifying the banks of the Danube.

Przemysl is a town of Galicia, Austria, 27 miles west of Lemberg, 25 miles south of the Russian Poland border and 81 miles south of east of Tarnob. In 1910 it had a population of 24,562. It is situated on the river San and is one of the strongest fortresses in Galicia. Its industries comprise the manufacture of machinery, liquors, the refining of naphtha, saw-milling and the sawing of timber. It is one of the oldest towns in Galicia, claiming to have been founded in the eighth century, and was at one time capital of a large independent principality. In the seventeenth century its importance was destroyed by inroads of Tartars, Cossacks and Swedes.

CHINA UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PANAMA CELEBRATION

Washington, Sept. 7.—China today officially notified the state department of its inability to participate in the naval rendezvous at the Panama Pacific exposition. Conditions arising because of the war were given as the reason and the Chinese foreign office expressed its deep regret.

TODAY'S BASEBALL GAMES ARE ON PAGE FIVE.